

In the Specification:

Please insert the following paragraph immediately above "Field of the Invention" on p. 1, line 3:

B1 This application is a continuation of U.S. application serial number 09/255,235, filed February 22, 1999, now U.S. patent no. 6,345,072.

Please amend the abstract, as follows:

B2 A digital communications link, protocol and related circuits are ~~disclosed~~ provided which use an embedded control channel for transferring control information between different sections of an xDSL system, including within a personal computer. The control channel is included as part of a data frame structure that is suited for a multi-channel communication system, including in an xDSL communications environment.